

SOUTHAMPTON UFO GROUP

12 Years of Investigation

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E.MAIL ADDRESS : SOUTHAMPTON@SUFOG.FREESERVE.CO.UK

CHECK US OUT AT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE :

Since the tragic loss of Graham Birdsall, UFOlogy has been in a sense of shock and bewilderment. We have been wondering if UFO Magazine will continue or will it fold. I have it under good authority that the magazine will continue in Graham's memory as it is a family run concern. So, lets hope that this is true and UFO Magazine comes out fighting and carries on where Graham left off.

The next 12 months sees a period of excitement for the group, TV interviews, radio appearances and a number of lectures being performed by our Public Relations Officer Mr Ernie Sears. If anyone knows of any group in their area that would like to have a UFO talk, please let me know an we will see what we can arrange.

The group has become somewhat fragmented over recent months, and hopefully we may be able to pull the group together, I want to welcome Tom Trubridge aboard as he has offered to be our video and photographic expert analysis as he has got some great kit and he has been able to print some frames from our May 2000 UFO sighting over Southampton Water. Tom will be a great

asset to the group and it is nice to have him actively involved in the group. So, if you have any video footage or photographs, please send them to the editorial address and they will be hand delivered to Tom. If it is a video, the original tape would appreciated.

Recently, I was somewhat bemused to hear the following statement : it has been pointed out to me on numerous occasions by much more credible and influential researchers than yourself "exactly what type of man you are". The person who said that 'a UFO Witness', who I shall not name, has NEVER met me. So, impressions third hand from alleged spineless UFO researchers that would rather stab people in the back.

Spineless people such as this type of UFO researcher is what the subject does not want. As far as I know, I have only upset 4 UFOlogists who may hold a grudge, and as I know who they are, then I know where to start looking. Mind you, SUFOG will continue even if spineless researchers are still out there festering away in their own self preservation. Your time will come.

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Hi Steve,

In the July/August issue of your newsletter arrived while I was away on hols last week - over on the IOW, so I got the chance to look at the skies down in your part of the world, and plenty to look at out over the Solent - no UFOs though.

Thought I had to mention a couple of things on the 'Orbs'... as I too am getting a tad fed up with paranormal/spirit claims being made by so many people now, as they are only deceiving others who have no sense of objectivity.

1] Yes, they were/are 'capturable' on 35mm, that's how I started capturing them way back in 1994, after others, notably the Plymouth UFO Group started making claims on these. In a way they were easier to capture back then, I seem to get 'worse' ones on digi-cams than I did on 35mm and APS. As such, they are not 'just' artefacts of digital photography. All my own 'anomaly photos' currently on the APRA website were 35mm.

2] From the above, obviously they are not a product of digital imaging, and the argument that 'They must be new life forms, as they haven't these been seen before digital photography' is a myth. There is a simple reason why so many people are capturing them now - they are taking more photos and deliberately looking for them. I think you're a tad younger than me, Steve, but I'm guessing you can recall your first camera - perhaps a small 120 jobby, or the infamous Kodak Instamatic? Back in those days (with the aid of our parents), photography was proportionally very expensive, and cameras didn't have flashguns - in those days there were only 'one-fire' flash bulbs, so very few people, and certainly not 'casual snappers' were taking indoor/night-time shots with flash. It wasn't until the advent of cheaper 35mm cameras and electronic flashguns (that still ate batteries) that the likes of you and I would have taken more flash photos. It wasn't until the 1980s that 35mm (then APS) compact cameras with their internal/automatic flashguns that such photography would have become

common, but even then the cost of film and processing was still a limiting factor (I shudder to think what my 'research' cost me over the years with 35mm and APS film - I stopped counting at £2000!). Most market research shows that when people switch to digital cameras they then take 10-20 times more images than they ever would have done with analogue/emulsion media - in my case it more like 30-40 times the images (I came back from holiday with nearly 1000 images, and that doesn't count the duff ones I deleted), and that's without deliberate sessions of setting out to capture orbs and other anomalies. Instead of the cost of film, my only limiting factor on any day now is having enough rechargeable batteries handy, and perhaps another media card when I go past taking 300-odd photos at a time. This is the one simple reason why people are now seeing the 'orb images', its down to percentages of the total photos being taken.

3] They are 'visible' to the naked eye. Make a point of not looking thru the viewfinder if you're experimenting at night - look across the top of the camera, you see lots of small sparks/sparkles being briefly illuminated by the flash - but the human eye can't process the same amount of data as film emulsion or digital sensor, so its picked up a brief flashes. Also, when you're experimenting, make sure you don't exhale as you trip the shutter, if its cold and your breath is condensing around the camera, then you'll get a 'ghostly mist' ;-). I did see one of these 'anomalies' with the naked eye while I was filming the Q&A session at the March SPI lecture, when I had my digi-corder recording while I was sat on the panel - I saw a brief flash as a particle of dust was suddenly picked up in the glare of the video light, although oddly enough the camera didn't pick up that one, but did pick up another - or perhaps not odd as me and the camera's view was 180 degrees different as we faced each other...

4] The above gives a clue what the vast majority (99.9%) of these orbs are; various particulates - dust, smoke, pollen, moisture, insects etc etc - I'm with you on your conclusions, its just a variation on dust particles in sunlight streaming thru a window. I'm not sure if you've seen Malc Robinson's report of his Rendlesham skywatch - what a surprise, people were capturing masses of 'orb' photos, I wonder

if the fact that 50-odd people were tramping round a forest floor after the driest summer for nearly 30 years (without checking exactly, I'm guessing 1975 or 1976) just might be significant?

I'm going to do an article on all this to submit to UFO Magazine, in which I'll cover the above, but also look in more depth at the data processing abilities of the human eye, analogue and digital cameras. CFN, mate BrianJ

Channel 4 Documentary **7th October 2003**

Channel Four's Tuesday 7th October documentary has been mooted as "The Great British UFO Hoax"! and claims to be that childish spoof near Avebury's Red Lion pub early August and sussed out by most observers there... including the small contingent from our own SUFOG...as a poorly contrived hoax by Chrysalis TV. Another version of the documentary came from the October UFO MAGAZINE from the late and sadly missed Graham Birdsall who had been informed the prog. would be the more serious "The Believers" and would include footage of some SUFOG members.. myself included....

Confusion has arisen and after discussion with our Steve Gerrard.. who was also in the local filming.....and after emailing UFO Magazine's Russel Callaghan on October 2nd....no answer yet...I rang Chrysalis TV and eventually spoke to someone who had actually worked on both productions. My feelings that a "hoax" programme would, in view of Graham Birdsall's recent sudden death following operations for a brain haemorrhage, be more of an insult than the more commemorative "serious" production. After I put the spokesman right on just WHO Graham was and his achievements...since he seemed unaware of even OUR tragic loss...he sympathised with my views and of others but said Channel Four had 'pulled the plug' (HIS words) on the original and opted for the Hoax one. Perhaps if Channel Four officials had been aware of matters they might have put "The Believers" on first, and,

subsequently, the "Hoax". I also suggested that MAYBE any of us who MIGHT tune in on the 7th October would perhaps switch off sooner than later. UNLESS, UNLESS, respect" allows a change!

Ernie Sears Southampton UFO Group PRO

Steve; I quote from Sunday Mail NIGHT AND DAY MAGAZINE, 5th October, TV PROGRAMMES; 'One evening in August, a flying saucer was seen hovering over Avebury in Wiltshire. It made news around the world, until it emerged that the spacecraft was part of a C4 commission. This film follows the fake UFO's troubled design through to its eventual successful flight, illustrating how difficult it was, despite technological advances, to pull off.' Unquote,

Good work sending previous to "ALL". UFOlogy, SUFOG, UFO MAGAZINE, BUFORA, et al, could exploit this latest, akin to a "Fortean UFOLOGY IS DEAD" situation, hoisting them with their own petard situation leaving Channel Four with, hopefully, egg on it's face. Or even PRESSING for that "The Believers" documentary to follow quickly? ALL TOGETHER, NOW!

Ernie Sears

PRO, Southampton UFO Group (SUFOG)

Source: The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/27/opinion/27SAT4.html>

September 27, 2003

The corners of the Internet frequented by fans of and alien-creature sightings were abuzz last week when President Bush extended for another year the total secrecy of Area 51, a large Air Force base in the Nevada desert.

Since the base was established in 1954 to test the U-2 spy plane, its cloaked existence has fuelled speculation that it is used for something else:

(Cont on Page 9)

Dorchester *Lecture on the* *4th April 2004*

This is your yearly Conference, do you have a topic or a lecturer that you would like to see offer a presentation at our future Conferences? Then please let us know. Contact
THERE MAY BE SLIGHT ALTERATIONS TO THE LECTURERS TIME SLOTS.

09.45am Stewart Langdown (Conference Host)
"Conference Introduction."

10.00am David Kingston (Bio) "The Power of Positive Thought"

11.00am *REFRESHMENTS*

11.20am Paul Vigay (Bio) "Crop Circles: The real-life adventure"

12.20pm Crichton Miller (Bio)

1.30 pm *LUNCH HOUR*

2.30 pm Reg Presley (Bio) "WILD THINGS THEY DON'T TELL US"

3.30pm *REFRESHMENTS*

3.45pm Philip Mantle (Bio) "Alien Autopsy Update"

4.45pm Busty Taylor (Bio) "UFOs And crop circles, is there a connection ?????"

6.00pm FREE RAFFLE DRAW AND CLOSE OF CONFERENCE

Admission is £18.00p per person. (Please keep your tickets safe for the FREE raffle at the end of the day. (Ticket number = raffle number) (If purchased in advance or £25 on the day, if any are available) Programme's (with full details on the lecturers and a local street map.) Please order yours with your ticket as they are all usually sold out before the day, are 70p each.

Email, Telephone, 01305 889108 or write to: Conference 2004, 1, Goldcombe Farm Cottages, Martinstown, Dorchester, Dorset. DT2 9HY England. Cheques should be made payable to V. M. Kingston.

SPI LONDON LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR 2004.

Saturday February 28th Ron Pearson
'Survival Physics, Life After Death'

Saturday March 27th Nigel Wright & Robert Snow
'UFOs, Black Cats & All That Jazz'

Saturday April 24th Natalie Osbourne Thomason
'Ghosthunting From A Psychic Perspective'

Saturday May 29th Professor Chris French
'Many Happy Returns, Reincarnation Claims In The Lebanon'

Saturday June 26th Andy Thomas
'The Crop Circle Mystery'

Saturday July 31st Philip Mantle
'The Alien Autopsy'

Saturday August 28th Nick Pope
'Inside The Project'

Saturday September 25th Brenda Butler
'A Paranormal Journey Through Rendlesham Forest 1980-2003'

Saturday October 30th Jane McCarthy
'Spirit Paranormal Photography'

Saturday November 27th Reg Presley
'Wild Things They Don't Tell Us'

Saturday December 19th Mark Bennett
'UFOs The Spiritual Dimension'

The venue remains the same at the Sols Arms 65-68 Hampstead Road/Drummond

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Street, London, NW1 2PN (Near Euston Tower)
Nearest underground station is Warren Street on the Northern Line. There might be a slight increase in admission charge for next year.

For more information on the SPI London Lectures please e-mail Malcolm Robinson at spi_spi@hotmail.com or call Malcolm on 07949 178 835.

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Southampton UFO Group

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***** BY-MONTHLY ******

Sci-Fi Channel Documentary.

The SciFi Channel yesterday issued a press release on their new Kecksburg special. This is an original documentary and not a program they've simply been sold by an independent production company. This is one of two major programs they have planned before the end of the year. The other will involve an in depth look at the Bentwaters/Rendlesham Forest incident.

September 29, 2003

Bryant Gumbel Takes Sci Fi To "The New Roswell" Original Documentary Special Uncovers Startling Scientific Evidence About Possible UFO Cover-up in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania SCI FI Channel blows the lid off of the possible government cover-up of a little known 1965 UFO incident near the small town of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania in The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed, hosted by Bryant Gumbel. Directed and executive produced by Melissa Jo Peltier of MPH Entertainment, this original two-hour documentary special premieres Friday, October 24 @ 9 PM (ET/PT) exclusively on the SCI FI Channel. Jim Milio and Mark Hufnail of MPH also serve as executive producers. Peltier and Kelly McPherson serve as co-writers.

Nearly four decades ago, residents of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania witnessed what may be the most

significant UFO incident since the Roswell crash. Observers described seeing a fireball in the evening sky, a controlled landing and the systematic military recovery of an object. The government denies anything happened. The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed attempts to get to the bottom of this controversy through a groundbreaking investigation that includes startling scientific finds from the crash site and a tireless pursuit of government officials. The special also includes a revealing update from last fall's SCI FI Channel Roswell special on the findings at the excavated crash site in New Mexico.

The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed is part of the SCI FI Declassified franchise, a series of specials that demystify the place where science fiction meets science fact. From the dangers of nanotechnology and artificial intelligence to extraterrestrial encounters, SCI FI Declassified will explore and champion the issues that confound and confuse the human species. Other Declassified programs set to air this year are Man vs. Machine, which premieres on November 21 and UFO Invasion at Rendlesham, which premieres December 12 (also hosted by Gumbel).

Through landmark documentary programming and advocacy-based public affairs efforts, SCI FI will work to expand the contemporary definitions of science fiction to include ideas, concepts, myths and legends that simply cannot be explained. Last year, SCI FI launched a Washington, D.C. based public advocacy initiative to draw greater attention to the UFO phenomenon by the media, scientists and opinion leaders. The Channel is currently lobbying Congress to gain support for more scientific inquiry into these issues and plans to announce new measures closer to the documentary's premiere.

THE NEW ROSWELL: KECKSBURG EXPOSED is produced by MPH Entertainment Productions, exclusively for SCI FI. Launched in 1996, MPH has produced over 130 hours of primetime television programming and two independent feature films, including co-executive producing the 2002 smash hit My Big Fat Greek Wedding. Notable among MPH's many television projects are SCI FI Channel's The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence and Martian Mania: The

True Story of the War of the Worlds, cable's The Lost Dinosaurs of Egypt, Founding Fathers, Discovery Channel's Eco-Challenge Australia, Las Vegas: Gamble in the Desert and Sea Tales.

Is the world going mad ?

Whilst at work on the 13th October, I was listening to Radio Wave 105 and they mentioned a new report from (I think it was from Peru), saying that new research has thrown up something really strange.

It appears now, that some researcher or researchers have come up with the following in that there is a link between Alien abductions and..... You will never guess in a month of Sunday's... a connection with Abductions and wetting the bed. They believe people that wet the bed may have been abducted by aliens!! That means when I was younger, I must have been abducted over 100 times !!! To me, this is somewhat of a far fetching story and to honest, that would mean everyone on the planet must have been abducted at some time in their childhood, as I would guess that we ALL have wet the bed at some time and therefore there are mass abductions going on across the world.

I don't know where this story originated, so for now, take it as a pinch of salt, but just keep it at the back of your mind. I will trawl the Internet and see what I can find out about this story and see if I can back it up with some hard evidence. I suppose the next thing to come out will be 'When we are babies, our pooh is very runny and a funny colour. So surely, there must be a link between smelly nappies and alien abductions'... Yukkies...

I often wonder what next, so called 'researchers' will come up with next ?

Steve Gerrard...

An interesting case from Russia, but is it too good to be true.

Hello!

My name is Pavel, I live in Perm, Russia. I have found your address from Internet. In library I searched for something about UFO, have decided to look in Internet. I looked through sites and have decided to address to you, my be you can help me.

First of all I shall tell what has taken place. August, 23 I and my father went to Ekaterinburg from Perm by the car and by way we have come to forest for mushrooms. It was on a road from Perm to Ekaterinburg, between Suksun and Shamary, near to Molebka. And so in a forest, about 2,5 km from a road, on one of glades we have noticed strange black stains, their origin was not clear. In one place we have found a metal object which was on the ground, then we saw that it was only top part of it. It was very strange, not similar on anything. We have dug it out, when we cleared it of a dirty in water, we were struck - it not sink in water. We have taken it to home. It is made of metal. We have tried again to lower it in water - it not sink, keeps on a surface. Father has told me it can not be. Externally it looks as two cylinders, one in the another with disks on each side. Tried to disassemble - nothing it has turned out. On disks there are figures. On top it is similar to letter Z. On the bottom 6 points as a square 3x3. And when you touch it, it instantly becomes warm.

What is it, I do not know. All my family, relatives and I live in these places all life. There are strange things always here. Many strange and interesting stories the great-grandmother and the grandmother told me. My brothers live in a forest in small village, they very often tell me about luminous disks flying in the sky. I saw UFO many times, in different places. I saw UFO many times, in different places. I think this subject was left by UFO. What is it, and what to do with it, I do not know.

It is very interesting to me, somebody found the same objects? What you can tell about it? I want to give this object to somebody for research, I think that for this purpose necessary knowledge and special equipment, but we have not this and I have no time to be engaged in this, I work since morning till night.

Can you help me? Tell me please, can I give this object to you for further research. I have only one condition - you will told me that you have learned about it after research. Sorry, if I have disturbed you. In any case - thank you! Yours faithfully, Pavel

Hello again, Steve.

I'm glad to hear from you! O'K I'll send it to you by DHL mail (courier), if you agree let me know! O'K? I think, that you should know it - one of figures has changed. Now instead of 6 points is 7, one was added in the centre. I do not know how and when it has taken place, but it frightens me. I have drawn them for you. I do not have time, I work in a repair truck service and there a lot of work and I've two children but as soon as I can, I shall photograph it and I shall send photos to you. The scanner is only in library, where I use Internet, but I can come there only 3 times per one week. I forget to write last time, that near to object the TV and a radio telephone does not work. I do not have any equipment to measure any other characteristics, but I have tried on something:

Weight 3090 gr.

Length 27,5 sm.

Diameter of disks 10,4 sm.

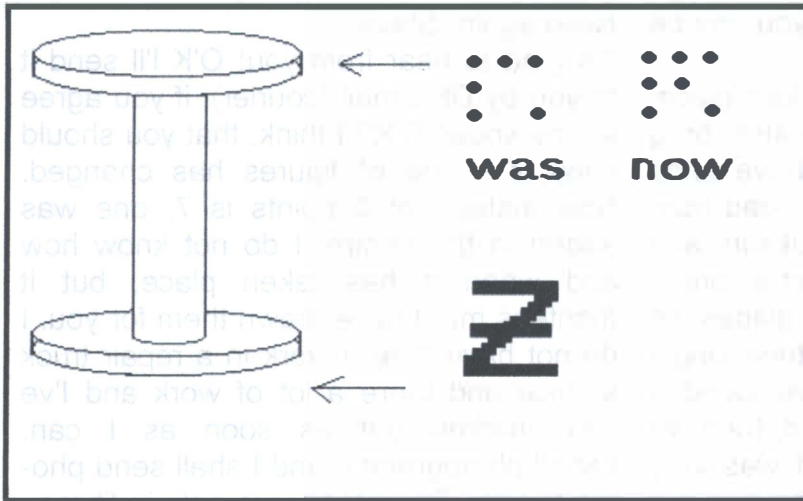
Not carry a current. The magnet to it does not stick. It is not immersed in water.

At a touch the temperature of a surface is heated up to 30 degrees. Tried to damage a surface with the help of a file and a knife and any damages did not regain. While looked through the information in Internet, has found out that people which are taking place near to places of landings of UFO and as contactors feel deterioration of health. It disturbs me, I suffer for my family. And if UFO will start to search for this object, what can happen? I shall not address to local authorities, I do not want any noise around of me and my family, reporters and other, to us it's so uneasily lives. I would like to get rid of this object more quickly.

Only promise to me - everything, that

you learn about this object and study, inform me.
Yours faithfully, Pavel Zelenin

P.S. I for the first time communicate in English with the person from other country (I was not in other countries), I learned it for a long time at school. Tell please, how is my English. My son started to learn it and I try to help him:-).



Hello, Steve!

Today I was at office of a delivery service and wanted to send you a parcel. They told me, that it will cost 200 dollars - I was in confusion. I did not think, that it is so expensive, it will seemed to me it cost approximately 50 dollars. I never sent parcels in other country earlier. I can not pay so much, I should provide my family - it is first of all for me. I'm sorry, I did not think, that it will be so. If for you this sum is justified and you can help, you could send me 150 dollars, I shall add the 50 and we can pay together. I have account in small bank of our city, I have opened it a long time ago, I hope it still works. I can check it and if it is O'k I can give you its number. What are you think? The delivery service will take all problems with delivery, packing, official registration of papers and so on. They promised to deliver it directly to your address. I have learned, that delivery will take 4-5 days. I have told them, that it is a detail for the automobile, that was not any problems with customs. This variant is optimum, safe and confidential. When you receive it, I would not want, that somebody know from whom you have received it, but I ask you, do not forget about me. I have measured a level of radiation of object, with the help of a usual domestic dosimeter, it is normal. I wrapped up object in a metal foil to make the screen from electromagnetic radiations.

After research, you can stay object to yourselves or give it to a museum. I believe in UFO, I know, that they are (I've saw my eyes) and I very much want to know

the truth about them. Can be, this object will give people any important information and I do not want, that it was secret and hidden from people and from me. I think, that you think just as I, therefore I trust you. I would not like to give it to somebody another. I want to keep in touch with you, if it is interesting to you. We could communicate. I frequently go on a visit to the relatives in a village, they tell to me interesting and unusual histories about UFO, about their behaviour, about different phenomenal with people, there were cases of contacts. But all this information does not leave a village and people do not know about it. I could tell to you about it. If sometime you will come to us, to Perm, you can not worry - you can live at us, in our house. I shall show you interesting, unusual and beautiful places as we can visit places connected with UFO. My wife has asked, that I have to sent you any small souvenirs from Ural (a product of a national craft or a card with pictures of Ural and Perm). I want to ask you - you do not object? With impatience I shall waiting for your answer! With the best regards,
Pavel.

(I do not know what to make of the above emails and the object. But when I have been asked to contribute \$150 to post it, then I am very suspicious when money is asked for. Maybe I am being too suspicious, but one hears of scams etc from Eastern countries. Has anyone else out there heard about this and can shed some light on it ?)

(Cont... from page 3)

the storage and study of captured extraterrestrials and their spacecraft, including those said to have landed in Roswell, N.M. A 1997 Air Force report saying there were no captured aliens served only to convince the faithful that there must have been.

But if the site stokes distrust, it should be for something more down to earth. Mr. Bush's order effectively lets the Air Force flout environmental laws without a public accounting. That is understandably upsetting to a group of former workers and two widows represented by Jonathan Turley, a George Washington University law professor who filed suit in 1994, claiming that exposure to toxic materials illegally burned on the grounds had caused gruesome skin rashes and respiratory ailments.

The secrecy surrounding Area 51 has been obsessive, even for the military, which does not like to acknowledge its existence, much less whether officers illegally handled hazardous waste.

In 1995, in response to the suit, President Bill Clinton issued the first annual exemption to protect the military from having to make disclosures.

While armed patrols and ominous signs warning of "deadly force" isolate Area 51, situated about 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, foreign satellite photos of buildings and of a runway several miles long hint at its uses. Rather than performing alien autopsies, the Air Force is more likely to be using the site to test new military hardware. Few would disagree that such work deserves to be classified, but it should not give the government a pass to break the law or to abuse the basic rights of its workers.

SUFOG DIARY - 2003..

Meetings are £3.00 for the evening.

Dec 17th 2003 :

SUFOG Christmas meeting.

Bring Christmas nibbles to share with other members...

2004 Meeting Dates :

21st January 2004

18th February 2004

17th March 2004

Please contact the Editor before the above dates to confirm that the Sky Watch / Meeting are still going ahead. This is because Sky Watch's are likely to be

cancelled / changed due to weather conditions, and other commitments that the editor is not aware of at the time of publication of the newsletter..

Radio Solent : 2nd December 2003 :

Just caught the following small item on Radio Solent as I was doing the washing up (who needs a dishwasher when you have a husband !!!). They were talking about a UFO web site and went on to talk about Radio Solent's Web Site. They also went onto the program that they made with the help of SUFOG and the presenter Mike Powell in 2002. They mentioned that you could still hear the item on the web site along with the message board where you can post a message or read those already there. Then they talked to someone who said that his friend had done a UFO course and received a qualification in Portsmouth !! Sorry Radio Solent, but that should have been Totton, in Southampton. SUFOG was not mentioned on this item, but at least the subject of UFO's is still going strong and lets hope that the radio keeps it up.

Steve Gerrard (Chairman)



NEWSPAPER REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

Few and far between... unsurprisingly, competing with world and closer to home events! Fortunately the Jonathan Cainer Psychic Team gives us THE DAILY MIRROR of six dates twixt October 8th up to November 8th on UFO's and the Harmonic Convergence along with the moon eclipse of the last date.

Jonathan Cainer asks UFO's are they coming back from the future? who answers the readers question by how we'll develop time travel one day. Future students or perhaps tourists must not contact us for fear of upsetting history! But UFO', says Jonathan, make us THINK.. perhaps educating us. Recent evidence suggest they are often bases on earth. The column concludes with a sighting from 1953 of an object 'several times the size of the moon and travelling fast.' Over Sheffield, the odd thing was the cone of sparks that stretched out IN FRONT of it. Although the witness ran into his home in fright, it made him thoughtful, and later in life he became a healer.

THE DAILY MIRROR later had Jonathan Cainer and John Michell describing a large oval object with flashing coloured lights hovering silently over a South Yorkshire area before it went off at great speed. While a spinning disc with flashing coloured lights reported

over the 1971 Glastonbury Music festival suddenly sped off, leaving the witness affected with a 'larger view of nature and natural forces'

THE DAILY MIRROR of later October.. Cainers Column again and John Michell says 'UFO's have their funny side too' and tells the story of a group of people watching a mass sighting over Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. The local police made a joke of their report. Months later the witness, Bob Cowe, was called out to see a glowing disc overhead. Going to the same police station who said 'not you, again' he told them it was then right over their station. He took them outside and they all saw a huge, white, UFO with a cross over it.

THE DAILY MIRROR ,16th October, had another article by the Psychic Team.. going back two years to that still unclaimed crop design at Chilbolton radio telescope. The "face" and the "message".. it says.. described another solar system with a population of 21.3 billion, 3ft 4ins tall with larger heads than ours, genetics different to ours and partly silicon! Seems you can find out more from the book "The Face and The Message", £7 incl. P&p, payable to "Gothic Image", from 7 High Street, Glastonbury, BA6 9DP.

THE DAILY MIRROR or 4th November features that alignment of the six pointed Star of David by the planets after the 8th November and then the moon and sun eclipses. The latter on the 23rd. (my "lucky" number!) Said to represent the "Harmonic Convergence" Forecast.. in the Cainer column by the astrologer for the Hindustan Times. So what happened? Did Blair and Bush receive those 'unprecedented showers of frequencies of divine consciousness' ? and 'every man woman or child will be treated to a rare glimpse of their own divinity' etc etc Did the killing stop? Apparently not!

THE DAILY MIRROR of Guy Fawkes 5th November had Cainers Column had Bernard Fitzwalter... Cainer's technical expert, cautiously, saying ; there may 'just be something in it'. Well? Did mankind blow it? No celestial fireworks! Only the yobbo throwing variety my way. Yours too?

I draw the curtains on the 6th November prognosis in the Mirror..."Cracking the cosmic code" it says , in John Michell's words. "SIX" being the 'perfect number'

I rather wryly like the end of Cainers column following that eclipse and convergence etc with the observant

phrase; A little government and a little luck are necessary in life, but only a fool trusts either of them' P.J O'Rourke born 1947.

**13th ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS
CONVENTION & FILM FESTIVAL**

**February 8 - 14, 2004 - Flamingo Resort
Laughlin, Nevada USA
INVITED SPEAKERS**

SUNDAY

JIM MARRS - The truths behind 9-11 and the Iraq war. Contact cases in Montana.

MONDAY

ED & KRIS SHERWOOD - *Crop Circle Answers, and extraordinary new UFO footage*

MATTHEW HURLEY (U.K.) - *Author of "The Alien Chronicles"*

JOE McMONEAGLE - *Author of "Stargate Chronicles", and leading Remote Viewing expert.*

WYNN FREE & DAVID WILCOCK - *"The Reincarnation of Edgar Cayce"*

TUESDAY

Prof. JAMES McCANNEY - *Author Of "Atlantis to Tesla - The Kolbrin Connection"*

Dr. CLAUDE SWANSON - *Author of "The Synchronized Universe: New Science of the Paranormal"*

ADRIAN DVIR (Israel) - *Author of "Healing Entities & Aliens"*

RUSSELL CALLAGHAN (U.K.) - *Hot new footage out of Europe*

WEDNESDAY

GEORGE FILER - *"Filers Files" - cases George has researched, plus his own experiences.*

RICH DOLAN - *The greatest show in the quadrant - Humanity's impending flame-out & the presence of others.*

HAKTAN AKDOGAN (Turkey) - *New info on UFO activity in Europe, and government involvement*

STAN GORDON - *Producer of "Kecksburg - The Untold Story"*

THURSDAY

OPEN MIC SESSION FOR EXPERIENCERS - Led by Mary Rodwell

MARY RODWELL (Australia) - *Author of "Awakening: How ET Contact Can*

Transform Your Life"

BUDD HOPKINS & CAROL RAINEY - *Co-Authors of "Sight Unseen"*

LEAH HALEY - *Author of "Unlocking Alien Closets: Abductions, Mind Control & Spirituality"*

FRIDAY

RILEY MARTIN - *Experienter / Author of "The Coming of Tan"*

LISETTE LARKINS - *Author of "Talking to Extraterrestrials" and Calling on Extraterrestrials"*

A. J. GEVAERD (Brazil) - *Top researcher from Brazil brings new cases from South America*

Col. WENDELLE STEVENS - *The new case of Martin Wiesengrun of E. Germany.*

SATURDAY

MICHAEL HORN - *The Meier Contacts: The key to our future and our survival*

Dr. NORMAN BERGRUN - *Evidence of ET Intelligence (visual evidence from Voyager & Apollo)*

SANTIAGO YTURRIA GARZA (Mexico) - *Recent activity in Mexico and the U.K.*

DANIEL SHEEHAN - *The direction in which our movement should focus our efforts now through 2012.*

Sad news to hear.

It was with great sadness that I heard of the passing of a great friend and crop circle/UFO researcher, Dave Probert. I had been friends with Dave and I was introduced to Dave by Tom Trubridge who informed me. Dave died on Saturday 29th November 2003, peacefully, following a brain haemorrhage. Dave was a crop circle researcher in the 1980's and 1990's and was a member of a local Crop Circle group. Dave had already suffered a brain tumour some 10 years ago and had major surgery to remove it. I am sure that the crop circle community will be in mourning at his loss. Dave was only 56 yrs old, and was always up for a good chat on the phone and would warn me of formations, radio items etc. He will be sadly missed and this is yet another one of the old brigade of researchers that cannot be replaced.

Steve Gerrard (Chairman)

Curious Questions Answered.
BBC Radio Solent
1st October 2003.

This seems to be a fairly regular pot for me and again I was on the show for about 15 minutes answering questions phoned into the radio station. These questions ranged from 'Has anyone ever been hurt by a UFO' to 'When was the first ever recorded sighting of a UFO'. I thoroughly enjoy this spot and how long it will go on for, I do not know. Hopefully, it will bring a bit more interest in the subject out in the open and bring us some more new members.

HOURNE FARM WEEKEND
By Ernie Sears

The weekend of the 1st November I was invited up to Kent to a UFO etc weekend with my UFO talk scheduled for the Saturday and the one on ghosts, healing, life after death on the Sunday. Arrived later than planned on the Friday evening due to a ninety minute hold up on the Chichester bypass! Good start on arrival (!) at 7.00 p.m. My lady had "volunteered" to lay out the meals.. 3 a day.. and on arrival was pointed to the bread bin and a tin or two of beans if we were peckish and discovered no kitchen staff had been booked so began her "restful" weekend I'd promised of cooking all meals.....all vegetarian... for around thirty guests! No pay offered! I mucked in with it.. huge kitchen... and finished up with "desert tummy" early on Sunday morning! Lack of hygiene we reckoned. Empty freezer and full fridge! The talks went OK.. interesting to sit in on some.. Graham Sheppard good. as he was at our 2001 Open Day .Abductions. Sai Baba, Egyptology, Crop Circles etc plus yours truly well received. Schedules went to pot. The guvnor stuck in an extra talk.. by him.. so I missed Sunday Lunch! Breakfast too! No money involved.. dunno about the others! We had, in lieu, bed and brekkers and petrol money. Potentially a lovely layout...lake and waterfall, swans (plastic!), early Victorian I thought. But it rained! Torches needed for the steps! Interesting, as I said. Not to be repeated! Since my main aim is always to spread the knowledge. OK! Immense library.. no time to

browse. Very atmospheric lecture hall. Unusual astrological tiled courtyard. Used all year for New Agers etc. Once a year for UFO's. Lovely countryside. Near Tunbridge Wells.

On 13 November 2003

Rachel;

My Psychic News item of the 8th Nov. prompts me to write for further information as suggested. My current WSG RAPPORT magazine confirmed the report from Nick Pope.. a long-time acquaintance. I am PRO of Southampton UFO Group, a member of BUFORA (British UFO Research Association), columnist and member of the London Witness Support Group, TV and Radio speaker on the Paranormal since 1959, Experiencer and abductee...with a witness on two occasions... 1978 and 1999...certificated "healer" since 1978...a mystery scar!...encounters with "ghosts", OOBES.. (in 1933!)...contact with "the dead"....most of all this related at a BUFORA talk in 2000...and recently in Kent on a weekend "retreat". AND I'M NOT UNIQUE!

OK...so now it's YOUR turn!

Ernie Sears

Dear Mr Sears

Thank you for your informative and interesting email, and request for further information about our research. The project is based in the Psychology department at Goldsmiths College London . It is lead by Prof. Chris French and I am the research assistant. The project aims to establish if there are any common profiles which people having abduction experiences adhere to. Obviously if we find there is a profile, this will not tell us if people with a certain profile are more likely to have this experience or if people with this profile are more likely to be abducted, but we believe it is an important starting point in trying to understand the experiences more fully. We are also testing to see if experiencers have greater,

psychokinesis abilities than control participants. You do not say if you are interested in possibly participating but if you did decide to this would involve completing a set of standardised psychology questionnaires, a memory test and PK test plus an interview. I hope this gives you more of an idea of our aims, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions or if you are interested in taking part.

Very best wishes Rachel Fox



MAGAZINE REVIEWS
BY ERNIE SEARS.

UFO MAGAZINE for November \December looking good after the tragic loss of it's Editor and Leader of it's QUEST Organisation Graham Birdsall. Christine Birdsall heads a "Thank You" first page to pay tribute to some of the obviously 'many hundreds' who sent personal tributes to her late husband. Life goes on.. MUST.. as many of us speak from similar situations. Richard Sauder opens up with intriguing facts about Underground and Underwater installations. Crop Circle expert Colin Andrews writes on the "Signature" and "Signs" of "Contact". UFO's caught on camera are featured in the Mag. while Budd Hopkins new book "Sight Unseen" has excerpts published. The McMinnville UFO Festival. Book Reviews by Stuart

Miller. Packed with much more. From your newsagent.. ask him!...or Quest Publications International Ltd, Valley Farm Way, Wakefield Road, Stouton, Leeds, LS10 1SE, at £2.75

OVNI in it's usual cheery yellow cover, from Omar Fowler.. November\December...led by a tribute to Graham Birdsall.. covers the Derbyshire and wider UFO scene in excellent form. "Unusual" craft seen over Derby Oct. 23rd 03. Another complete with two tier lights over Mansfield Oct. 8th 03. New Zealand Oct. 03 15 minute sighting performed 'fantastic aerobatics'. United Arab Emirates the source of a 'strange creature' allegedly filmed in caves.. The photographer later found "dismembered" with his undamaged camera. Hmm! A "Life after death" account from 1978. The Siberian Meteorite and Alien Bases by Omar Fowler and encounters with an alleged "alien" hybrid. That "Disclosure Project" talk at £20 a ticket by an Autherius Society member took place October 4th at Derby! Excellent magazine, Bi-monthly at £1 plus postage from 94 The Circle, Sinfen,, Derby, DE24 9H?

RAPPORT.. the Ken Phillips Witness Support Group (WSG) also bi-monthly and donations suggested now £2. Good range of articles and illustrations.. some in colour...yours truly has a regular column.. and a magazine, that is 'written and produced solely by people who have had a "Close Encounter" experience.' Articles on "The Phantom No.7 Bus", Australian report interesting. Readers Letters. A featured "CRY FOR HELP" by "Mary" on 'Save the Earth'...by Gosh, dear, we are TRYING! That sceptic led alien abductee probe item by Nick Pope in case WSG members would like to participate! Currently my reaction is "wait and see" so far! Personally I regard the project as an insult to THOUSANDS of people who KNOW what they've experienced.. even worse insult to professional and service etc personnel. 'Cos, by inference, it is also dismissing actual CRAFT sightings. After all, as I once asked, in print (and a certain lady misquoted it!) 'WHO the hell do they think is flying them? 'Nuff! OK...all details for RAPPORT and the WDG via me! NO SCEPTICS WANTED.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for Summer 2003.. smart production, just as I remember it years ago.. Sadly, I stopped taking it around the early eighties when it's recently deceased Editor Gordon Creighton too over. His views were interesting, new, but didn't fit MY experiences and wasn't going to change.

However, our Steve gave me this one and it's a good production.. that Siberian Meteor 2002, a weird "Alien" report, Chupacabras during a Puerto Rico hurricane, UFO sightings at Croxley, Herts, 2003, and Birmingham 1995. Much more. Try FSR Publications, PO BOX 162, HIGH WYCOMBE, BUCKS, HP13 TDZ, or email<fsreview@freeuk.com>

THE UFO CRITICISM by JN.. From JAPAN. August 2003...unavoidable delays.. 4th Issue and quite interesting. editor Junji Numakawa is a believer.. and very forthright in that! 'Earth people barbarous' for starters! The spiritual aspect.. Fatima etc.. Japanese UFO History...a landing in the 19h Century? ..a BOOK Review section...photos of a "dragon", also drawings of same, in the sky.. Jehovah as a fiery tempered spaceman!.. magazines titled in English for reader benefit. Prehistoric sites, etc. eight pages. Ask for address as it is a limited product.

HAMPSHIRE LIFE.. bet that made you gulp! Yeah.. my friendly local newsagent loaned me this one for October 2003, Cos why? Huh.. a good article in it's glossy page on Netley Abbey's ruined edifice by Tessa Harris who spent the night there in June 2003 with members of the Hampshire Ghost Club.. and some unwanted guests briefly in the form of local jobs! Removed once by the police but they returned about 12.45 which terminated the investigation that began at 9.15 pm. Very Interesting incidents were experienced.. the group had a medium with them...dark shadowy shapes.. a flash of light.. distinct black dropped from a window...a mist which was filmed with the viewfinder image breaking up...no repeat of that problem.. batteries drained in the walkie-talkies.. well, much more. Some of those tied in with SUFOG members at the last meeting own experiences. Effective photo with hooded monk crossing abbey grounds.. quite obviously "planted"! Haunted Hampshire's Top Ten section very useful. Contact me I interested.. maybe we'll plan something from this info.

Excellent photo of filmy presence at he Abbey.. thanks Steve...was shown at the November group ,meeting ..see what your missing?

Southampton UFO Group
Conference 11th September 2004
10 a.m. - 5 p.m..
In Memory of Graham Birdsall.

As you read this item, planning for the above event is well under way. We already have a location booked that holds 200 people. The location, will be Peartree Church Hall from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on the 11th September 2004. Speakers are yet to be confirmed and we have had the green light from UFO Magazine and Russel Callaghan (Hopefully one of our speakers).

At the end of the day, ALL money raised will go to the ward that helped Graham through his last hours in Leeds. So, tickets will ONLY be available prior to the event and there will be NO tickets available on the day. The ticket £15.00 price includes refreshments (Tea and Coffee) morning, lunch and afternoon . Also, there will also be a finger buffet included in the price. We are hoping to have book stalls and also a Prize draw / Raffle with prizes 'Out of this World'.

We are currently contacting 6 speakers from around the world and hopefully, you will receive details in the February edition, and by then, hopefully everything will be in place for the day.

Please remember that the whole event is to raise money for the hospital ward and if anyone has any ideas, please let me know as soon as possible.

I am hoping that myself and group secretary Steve rider will be able to go to the Leeds conference hopefully at the end of September to present a cheque to either Russel and Graham's wife or hopefully we can arrange to do it at the hospital and arrange the press to be there to photograph the handing over the cheque. So, it is up to ALL members to get behind us before the event and to offer your help. Remember, Your group needs you !!!

POPULAR MECHANICS Magazine.

Science - Space

Six Unexplained Encounters

These UFO sightings continue to defy science and the sceptics.

By Jim Wilson

Most sightings doesn't Sceptics say it is easy to make a UFO crash. Just poke it with a pointed question. Consider the legendary Mantell incident in which a UFO supposedly shot down a F-51 Mustang in broad daylight. Ask if any other military aircraft were aloft over Kentucky that fateful Jan. 7, 1948 afternoon. You will discover that Capt. Thomas F. Mantell Jr., a pilot in the Air National Guard, died after running out of oxygen while chasing the Sun's reflection off a then-secret Navy Skyhook balloon.

Radar has proven as fallible as the human eye, producing headlines describing fleets of UFOs over Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and sensitive military installations. In each case the real invaders were overlapping radar signals, air masses of differing densities, or flocks of birds that suddenly tightened formation. Each anomaly can cause multiple targets or blimp-size objects to appear one second and disappear the next.

At times, differences in interpreting the "facts" of a case can make UFOlogists and sceptics seem like members of warring tribes. There is, however, one point on which they agree: Most UFO sightings are aircraft, planets or other natural phenomena.

Most sightings doesn't mean all sightings. And while government investigations have repeatedly assured the public that UFOs pose no danger to national security, the very same reports also detail dozens of sightings that neither science nor the sceptics can adequately explain. Among these cases are six sightings that are more puzzling now than when they were originally reported.

POPULAR MECHANICS offers no opinion on whether these mysterious flying machines originate from secret military airstrips here on Earth or spaceports somewhere "out there." We do, however, feel comfortable making one prediction: When the shell of security surrounding UFOs finally cracks, it will be

because one of the sightings we present here provided the wedge.

Asked to pick the most credible UFO photos ever taken, UFOlogists select the simple black-and-white snapshots taken by Paul Trent, a farmer in McMinnville, Ore.

The photos allegedly confirm a sighting that occurred on May 11, 1950, when an inverted pie plate flying machine was seen by Trent, his father-in-law and his wife. Mrs. Trent saw the craft first. She told Air force investigators that she first spotted it about 7:30 pm as she walked across her yard. About 30 ft. across, it floated noiselessly toward her from the north-eastern sky, creating a wake that rustled her dress. Thinking it was something the Army was experimenting with," she shouted for her husband to bring the camera. As he darted outside and began snapping photos, she ran inside to phone her parents, who lived next door. Thus alerted, her father caught a glimpse of the craft. When the film was developed, Trent showed it to his friend Frank Wortmann, a local banker, who displayed the pictures in the bank's window. A local reporter saw and published the photos. Within a month the main photo was circulated by news wires and printed in Life magazine. The FBI and Air Force interviewed the Trents. And then the photos disappeared.

Found in a news wire photo archive after 17 years, the misfiled pictures were sought out by sceptics. "The pictures attracted attention because they depicted not nebulous lights but an artificial, structured aircraft," says Jerome Clark, of the J. Allen Hynek Centre for UFO Studies (JAHCUS). He investigated the case while researching an encyclopaedia titled The UFO Book.

Sceptics found nothing to disparage the Trents' integrity, and no financial motive for having faked UFO pictures. The strongest criticism of the photos to date has come from Philip J. Klass, an aviation journalist who has published several books and a newsletter debunking UFO claims. Klass says the Trent photo shows a shadow pattern that could be produced only if the

picture was taken in morning light. Bruce Maccabee, an optical physicist more sympathetic to UFOlogists, says the same effect could have been created by cloud cover.

And so the mystery continues. "If authentic, they comprise significant evidence for the reality of intelligently controlled UFOs," says Clark.

Sheraz, Iran October 8, 1978 In the late 1970s, the long-friendly relationship between the United States and Iran soured after the ouster of the Shah of Iran. Anticipating armed conflict, both sides ratcheted up their military preparedness. With U.S. spy satellites looking down and Iranian radar installations looking up, the skies over Iran became the most heavily monitored airspace in the world. Had it not been for these political events, it is doubtful the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff would have been interested in a snapshot taken by 16-year-old Jamshid Saiadipour. Up late studying for exams in June 1978, he saw and photographed a UFO from the window of his family's apartment in the town of Sheraz. The photo caused a stir among UFOlogists because it resembled a UFO reported by pilots during their landing approach to the Teheran airport earlier in the year.

On Oct. 8, 1978, a similar craft was photographed by another youngster, Franklin Youri, from outside his home near Lake Urmia in western Iran. This picture, however, was not revealed until the Youri family relocated to the United States three years later.

A Freedom of Information Act request and lawsuit (see "What The Government Really Knows About UFO Sightings" below) ultimately led to the release of Defence Department documents that revealed the American military's interest in the sightings. What made UFOlogists and the U.S. military so interested in photos of UFOs taken by two Iranian teenagers? UFOlogists claim that Iranian airspace had been a hotbed of UFO activity for many years. They say a pivotal moment occurred on Sept. 19, 1978, with an encounter between two Iranian Phantom jets and an object that failed to appear on radar. When the American-made F-4 fighters got close enough to release their air-to-air missiles, the planes' weapons-firing control systems mysteriously and repeatedly failed. Sceptics point out the real reason for the interest from the Joint Chiefs of Staff may have been the strong resemblance between the

object that appeared in the two photos and a then-secret stealth aircraft, Tacit Blue. Based at the former Area 51 secret aircraft development centre in Nevada, it was designed to test stealth technology.

UFOlogists say the case needs further investigation. Until then it remains a valid UFO. The Sheraz photo, shown enlarged in the lower right corner, closely resembles Tacit Blue, a secret stealth jet.

Trinidad, Brazil January 16, 1958 When UFOlogists and sceptics can't find strings, shadows or signs that a UFO photo is faked, they question the credibility of the photographer and witnesses. Trained observers-including pilots, ship captains and military officers are usually considered the best witnesses. It is the credibility of the 47 crew members of the Brazilian naval vessel *Almirante aldanha* that makes the Trinidad, Brazil UFO photo so important.

As part of its contribution to the 1957-58 International Geophysical Year, the Brazilian navy set up a weather station on the small rocky island of Trinidad, in the South Atlantic Ocean. In January 1958, observers began spotting unusual aerial activity, including fast-flying disks. On the night of Jan. 16, the disk shown here appeared within view of the ship's company. Among those present was civilian photographer Almiro Barauna, who snapped a series of six photos. After the ship returned to port, the photos, which had been developed on board in a makeshift darkroom, were turned over to the Brazilian Navy Ministry. Analysts determined the photos to be authentic and concluded they showed a 50-ft.-dia. object moving at 600 mph.

Sceptics have offered two explanations for the craft. Initially, Harvard University astronomy professor Donald H. Menzel said the UFO was simply a plane flying through fog. Then, in the first of several books he would write debunking UFOs, he claimed the photos were faked. Barauna, he said, had first photographed a model UFO in his home and later double-exposed the same roll of film with

pictures of the open sky. However, a 1978 examination by an independent laboratory using digital photo analysis ruled out such tampering. "Given the number of witnesses, the results of photo analysis, both military and civilian, and the need for debunkers to reinvent the incident to 'explain' it, it seems most unlikely that the Trinidad photographs were hoaxed," says JAHCUS's Clark. The Trinidad UFO was photographed and seen by more qualified observers than any other sighting. Bentwaters, England December 27, 1980 "I started my tour of duty believing in aircraft lights," Nick Pope tells me as we eat a traditional English lunch of fish and chips at London's Red Lion pub, just down the block from his office in the British Ministry of Defence (MOD). "I ended it believing in aliens." For three years Pope was assigned to the MOD office responsible for investigating UFO reports. Holding a rank equivalent to captain, he knew the detours around the roadblocks bureaucrats put in the way of UFOlogists.

Among the cases he examined was an incident that has come to be known as England's Roswell. It occurred over the last days of December 1980, near a now-closed U. S. Air Force base in Bentwaters. For two nights security patrols observed unusual lights in the Rendlesham Forest just beyond the base's fence. On the second night they entered the forest with generator-powered floodlights, Geiger counters and 2-way radios. At the critical moment when an angular, 20-ft.-wide, 30-ft.-tall craft appeared, the radiation-detecting instruments started to clatter and the spotlights and radios began to sporadically fail.

Daylight revealed broken tree limbs and three 1 1/2-in. deep, 7-in.-dia. circular depressions, suggesting something had landed, just as the observers claimed. Initially, sceptics dismissed this physical evidence as wind damage. They explained the unusual lights by constructing a complex chain of events that included unusual astronomical activity, satellite debris burning up on re-entry, and the rotating beam of a lighthouse several miles away. What the sceptics couldn't explain, says Pope, is a scientific report he found in the MOD files. It revealed radiation levels 25 times higher than normal background levels in the soil and trees surrounding the landing site. As Pope delved

more deeply into MOD files he found that the Bentwaters case, as it is known to UFOlogists in the United States, was the second to occur in the Rendlesham Forest. On Aug. 13, 1956, British radar had picked up blips similar to a jet aircraft's-only it was moving at speeds up to 9000 mph. Technicians later told investigators for Project Blue Book that diagnostics checks indicated their radar was operating normally. The incident remained classified until 1969. Pope said the two Bentwaters episodes and others he investigated during his stint as England's top UFO investigator moved him from sceptic to believer, and inspired him to write a book titled *Open Skies, Closed Minds*. "As long as we are all afraid of ridicule, the UFOs are going to be ignored," says Pope. "Perhaps we ignore them at our peril."

Zanesville, Ohio November 13, 1966 For those who believe UFOs are piloted by child-size creatures with large almond eyes, any sighting that takes place in the state of Ohio merits special attention. The attraction is Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. In addition to being the headquarters for Project Blue Book, it was also home to the Air Technical Intelligence Centres, which analysed flying machines based on Nazi German "flying disc" designs (see *Roswell Plus* 50, July '97). What makes these stories even more appealing are recurring rumours that the base is also the repository for debris from crashed UFOs, and alien bodies. Ohio holds another distinction in UFO lore. In Zanesville, on Nov. 13, 1966, local barber and amateur astronomer Ralph Ditter took the two spectacular UFO photos shown here. Beyond their detail-which to some sceptics is evidence itself of fraud-the importance of the photos lies in their similarity to the craft reported during a series of sightings that occurred throughout the year.

At least two of these sightings were made by law enforcement officials, credible witnesses on everyone's list. In Toledo, on March 25, two Lucas County

deputies, Robert Schultz and Stanley Nelepa, reported seeing a huge object floating at treetop level. Four days later, a glowing orange object was seen floating over the Ohio Turnpike administration building in Berea. Three days later it was spotted a second time, by Berea patrolmen Clarence T. Janowick and John R. Galik Jr. Because Ditter took his photos with a Polaroid camera, there are no negatives to investigate for signs of tampering. The jury remains out-and perhaps may never be able to return a verdict on whether the Zanesville photos are spectacular evidence or spectacular frauds. The Zanesville photos fit descriptions of craft seen by police and sheriff's deputies elsewhere in Ohio in the spring and fall of 1966.

Hillsdale, Michigan March 21, 1966 UFOlogists sometimes say sceptics are people who haven't had a "close encounter." Josef Allen Hynek, who coined the phrase "close encounter," might agree. Hynek was a University of Chicago-trained astrophysicist and confirmed sceptic who served as the scientific consultant to the Air Force Project Blue Book UFO investigation. And then he changed sides. The case that prompted his conversion occurred in Hillsdale County, Mich., on March 21, 1966, and involves the photo shown here. At about 10:30 pm a resident of the women's dormitory at Hillsdale College reported a strange object in the sky. County Civil Defence director William E. Van Horn responded and confirmed that a bright glowing object was indeed bouncing across a nearby hollow and then became airborne. Hynek, who died in 1986, dismissed the Hillsdale sighting as "swamp gas." Within two weeks, however, he changed not only his opinion about the sighting, but also sides in the great UFO debate.

Perhaps it was the contents of Van Horn's report that sparked the conversion. Soil analysis showed that on the very spot where the "swamp gas" had touched down, radiation levels were higher than in the surrounding terrain. More significant still was the finding that the ground was also contaminated with boron, the element used to slow nuclear chain reactions. What The

Government Really Knows About UFO Sightings

Do you believe the government is telling the truth about UFOs? Each of the government's major UFO studies-projects Blue Book, Grudge and Sign-claimed to have made a clean breast of things. Yet, according to JAHCUS's Clark, 80% of Americans "believe the government is hiding evidence of UFOs." David M. Jacobs, a historian at Temple University, says the government's own paper trail suggests there may be a good reason to distrust the official version. He points out that between 1953 and 1969, the entire period the Air Force was responsible for investigating UFOs, its officers operated under standing orders from the Joint Chiefs of Staff that made it a crime under the Espionage Act to share UFO reports with unauthorized personnel.

"This action effectively stops the flow of information to the public," says Jacobs. "Only if Blue Book could positively identify a sighting as a hoax or misidentification would the Air Force release information to the public." The rules, Project Blue Book advisor Hynek once remarked, made it impossible to evaluate a UFO report as anything other than a natural object, weather or atmospheric phenomenon, a hoax or a hallucination. Hynek claimed that the Air Force was also under economic pressure to reduce the paperwork that UFO reports generated. To help keep the work flow manageable, said Hynek, Blue Book made arbitrary rules. For example, sightings reported by anyone under 18 were automatically disregarded. Toward the end of the project, enlisted men were allowed to summarily dismiss cases by claiming they were filed by crackpots.

Now, many of the sightings that Blue Book and earlier UFO investigations refused to examine are about to come out. In 1980 a group called Citizens Against Unidentified Flying Objects Secrecy filed a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act that asked the National Security Agency (NSA) to open its files on 239 sightings. In documents filed under a top-secret security classification, NSA responded that revealing its knowledge of UFO activity would damage national security. But now, under revised declassification rules, many of these documents are being released

by virtue of their age. Included among them are the Joint Chiefs of Staff communications about the Iran sighting. Historians and UFOlogists may soon have the final pieces of the great UFO puzzle.

7th October 03 : UFO Hoax : CH 4

From the very title of this program I wondered if we were in for one of those programs that threw scorn over the whole UFO subject. I had already read the reports in the newspapers and on the Internet about this hoax (Rense.com carries a good report with photographs) and I had already made my mind up at the time of the it being a hoax. So, it was with more wonder than anything as I pressed the record button on the video recorder and sat down to watch the first 30 minutes (I had to go to bed early as I had to get up the next morning at 6 a.m.).

After watching the whole program the next day, I felt that the program had me thinking about the pros and cons of making such a program. The program followed the making of the UFO by 2 special effects men who had worked on programs such as James Bond (007) and were used to making models and blowing them up!!! I must praise them in the methodical way in which they went about creating the hoax UFO. They ordered parts from Germany and America and they had the outer 'Balloon' re-made, as the shape was completely wrong for a UFO. One thing I was un-aware of was that they had to get clearance from the CAA to actually fly the object because of its size and speed. So, if you are planning on creating a hoax, remember you have to have the proper authority to do so.

Crunch time... the day of the launch proved more difficult as the wind speed was too strong and was blowing from the wrong direction. This meant that that they had to 'walk' the UFO to a different launch site. This I found amusing, as they had covered it in a camouflage net, yet, with the object being silver in colour, you would of still been able to see from a long way off... UFO is launched... as it floated across the Avebury

area, it did look impressive. Cars were stopping alongside the road and reports of flashlights from cameras going off in the valley and meant that the British public had been caught, hook, line and sinker. Local residents of Avebury described the UFO as it sailed over the village and suddenly a camera crew appeared at the Red Lion pub (One should have been asking why suddenly, at that precise time, a camera crew 'happened' to be in the area?) and interviewed more witnesses. At this point, I must point out that members from APRA, Brian James were interviewed and ignored once they were identified as UFO researchers... I wonder why? and also they never appeared on the program being interviewed? The so called 'witnesses' came up with numerous descriptions (all different) with descriptions of the UFO being 25 meters long, silver with a domed top and a black bottom with the number '1' on it (This was in fact a piece of card on the bottom covered in silver foil to stabilize the UFO when in flight and the object made a kind of 'humming' noise (caused by the 4 motors on the object positioned on the UFO at the points of a compass).

A success... Yes in what it was trying to achieve 'a Hoax'... Did it damage UFOlogy? No, because it certainly answered a number of questions in my mind and most UFOlogists recognised it for what it was, a hoax!. Yes, I thought that if you had the money/backed (Channel 4), the skills of film makers / model makers and the time, you could a flying object or anything (I.e. Roswell autopsy footage) hoax the public... YES! The original footage made news programs across the world, BBC 1, ITV and Sky News along with News programs in America (CH7 ABC), Australian and Mexican TV. The slight down side was that the only UFOlogist featured (If you can call him such) was Nick Pope and they had the usual Psychologist there to pour scorn over the program, Chris French.

The one good side from the film was in the first few minutes, when the Southampton UFO Group's own Public Relations Officer Mr. Ernie Sears was shown describing varying shapes of UFO's. This was done for a program called the UFO believers which

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this program replaced. But the down side, SUFOG nor Ernie were mentioned in the end trailers and his name/SUFOG were not mentioned in the program at all... Oh well, I suppose you can't win them all !!

So summing up... I enjoyed the program from the point of the creation of the UFO and the fact that a good hoax can be perpetrated with the right financial backing and professional help. It also showed just how Jo public can be hoaxed by a professional job. But, the UFOlogists there at the time smelt a rat and the camera crew and film makers ignored the UFOlogists... I wonder why ? I think this should be a lesson to all in that one should not be too quick in jumping to a conclusion and shout 'UFO'. Why, because one day if you do see the real thing (and most true UFOlogists know what the real thing is), will anyone ever believe you again.

Steve Gerrard (SUFOG Chairman)

Skywatch 11th/12th September.

For me, the true UFOlogist has to get off his/her ass and get out there and look at the sky and not be an armchair UFOlogist.

Myself and Tom Trubridge are such people who are willing to get off OUR ass and do this. Consequently we decided to do a skywatch at the back of Cheesefoot head in a very isolated area. We arrived at 8.30 p.m. and I ended up getting to bed around 4.30 a.m. ! The evening started off with what I can only say was a spectacular sighting of a meteor breaking up in the sky over Alsford which for me signified a night of great expectation. We used the time to test Tom's new 5 million pixel camera and the results will be in the next newsletter.

We were treated to some magnificent shooting starts and if the moon wasn't so full, I am sure we would of seen a lot more. By about 1 a.m. the wind had got up and it was winter clothing time. Tom chucked some burgers on the cooker (Tom now has a new camper van and were able to have hot food and drink all night... Fantastic !!). Then, at 1.10 a.m. we saw our UFO. A ball of orange light appeared in the direction of Alton. Tom managed to train his camera on the object and managed to photograph it... the object stayed in view for about 2 -3 mins, shrank in size to a small pea at arms length, and shot off at tremendous speed to the left towards Winchester in the distance. We stood there as stunned as anything and checked the camera, and there it was in all its glory, a UFO. I will reproduce the picture in the next issue. Tom is planning more sky-watch's in the future and who knows what we will see then. I crawled into bed around 4.30 a.m. With the pleasure of knowing that I had got off my backside and did what all 'True' UFOlogists should be doing.